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cDNA clones have now been identified that encode a novel protein, designated VRP, which binds to and stimulates the phosphorylation of the receptor tyrosine kinase Flt4. VRP is related in amino acid sequence to VEGF, but does not interact appreciably with the VEGF receptors, Flt1 and Flk1.

Claim

1. Isolated biologically active human VEGF-related protein (VRP) containing at least 265 amino acids having the ability to bind and stimulate phosphorylation of a Flt4 receptor.

7. Isolated biologically active human VEGF-related protein (VRP) comprising an amino acid sequence comprising at least residues +1 through 29, inclusive, of Figure 1, at least residues +1 through 137, inclusive, of Figure 1, at least residues –20 through 29, inclusive, of Figure 1, or at least residues –20 through 137, inclusive, of Figure 1.